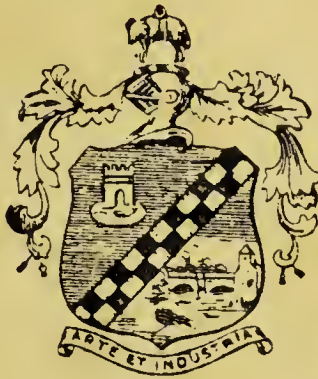


URBAN DISTRICT  
OF  
SOWERBY BRIDGE



MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
Health and Sanitary State  
of the District  
FOR THE YEAR 1938

SOWERBY BRIDGE :  
WM. ACKROYD, PRINTER, TOWN HALL BUILDINGS.  
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# Urban District Council of Sowerby Bridge



## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

December 31st, 1938.

Councillor	A. F. Longbottom, J.P.	<i>(Chairman of the Council)</i>
„	E. Butterworth	<i>(Vice-Chairman of the Council)</i>
„	A. Sutcliffe	<i>(Chairman of the Health Committee)</i>
„	J. W. Wiley	
„	T. Haigh	
„	J. T. Mitchell	
„	J. Noble	
„	G. W. Tucker, J.P.	
„	C. W. Maude, J.P.	
„	G. Sharpe	
„	E. Lumb, J.P.	
„	R. H. Howarth	
„	G. A. Roberts	
„	R. J. Thomas	
„	J. E. Crabtree	
„	S. Nicholl	
„	H. Sutcliffe	
„	A. Butterworth	
„	S. Dawson	
„	J. Grayshan	
„	E. Wigglesworth	

# PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

*Chairman :*

Mr. Councillor A Sutcliffe.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

ANDREW OSWALD JOLLIE,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.)

*Sanitary Inspector :*

WILLIAM ERIC FOSTER, M.S.I.A., M.R. San. I.

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## URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE.

### Statistical Summary.

Area of the District in Acres	...	...	...	...	4,856
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£82,370
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£315
The Altitude varies from 230 ft. to 1,250 ft. above sea level.					
Latitude, 53 deg. 42 N.		Longitude, 1 deg. 56 W.			
Population	...	...	...	...	17,690
Birth Rate, 1938	...	...	...	...	12·22
„ „ 1937	...	...	...	...	13·05
„ „ 1936	...	...	...	...	11·40
Death Rate, 1938	...	...	...	...	15·26
„ „ 1937	...	...	...	...	15·62
„ „ 1936	...	...	...	...	14·10
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 1938	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ „ „ 1937	...	...	...	...	12
„ „ „ „ 1936	...	...	...	...	13



# REPORT

## OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

### For the Year ending 1938.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMITTEE OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, on the Health and Statistics of your district, together with the work done in the Health Department during the past year, ending 31st December, 1938.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts of Births and Deaths are taken from the Returns as furnished by the Registrar-General after the correction for inward and outward transfers :—

		Total		M.		F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	210	...	121	...	89
	{ Illegitimate	...	7	...	5	...	2
			<hr/> 217		<hr/> 126		<hr/> 91

Birth Rate per 1,000  
of the estimated resident population ... 12·22

		Total		M.		F.	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	...	12	...	5	...	7
	{ Illegitimate	...	1	...	1	...	—
			<hr/> 13		<hr/> 6		<hr/> 7

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) ... 59·8

				Total		M.		F.
Deaths	...	...	...	270	...	145	...	125

Death Rate per 1,000

of the estimated resident population ... 15·26

Death from Puerperal causes :—

			Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	46·08
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				47·61
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil
Deaths from Heart Disease	...	...	...	79
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	43
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

The following table shows the number of births and deaths, as well as the birth-rates and death-rates for the past five years :—

Year		Births		Birth-rate		Deaths		Death-rate
1934	...	171	...	11·6	...	175	...	11·8
1935	...	150	...	10·3	...	216	...	14·8
1936	...	164	...	11·5	...	201	...	14·1
1937	...	242	...	12·9	...	292	...	15·6
1938	...	217	...	12·2	...	270	...	15·2
Average for } five years		189	...	11·7	...	233	...	14·3



Thirty-four Inquests have been held during the year, being equal to 12·59% of the total deaths.

Of the ten deaths of Infants under one year of age, they all may be classed as unavoidable, the majority of them occurring in the first week after birth, and being due, in most cases, to premature birth, congenital defects, broncho-pneumonia, etc. The following is a table of infant mortality for the past five years :—

1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	Resident
4	8	6	1	1	Under 1 week
2	1	1	2	2	1 week to 1 month
3	1	1	0	1	1 to 3 months
1	1	3	1	0	3 to 9 months
0	1	2	0	0	9 to 12 months
10	12	13	4	4	

The 270 deaths which occurred in the area consist of 193 registered in your district, and 77 deaths of persons who died outside the area but whose homes are in this district.

The 77 deaths of the residents which occurred outside this area took place in the Public Institutes in Halifax, the West Riding Asylums, and other places of a similar kind.

Table of Deaths at subjoined ages :—

1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	
10	12	13	4	4	Under 1 year
2	4	1	2	4	1 to 5 years
3	4	4	1	2	5 to 15 „
5	12	7	4	4	15 to 25 „
104	118	74	74	78	25 to 65 „
79	98	54	85	47	65 to 75 „
67	44	48	46	38	Over 75 „
270	292	201	216	177	

The following table gives various items and corresponding figures in England and Wales, with the figures prevailing in your district :—

1938	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Cancer Death-rate	Diphtheria Death-rate	Infant Mortality Death-rate	Inquests % of Deaths
Smaller Towns England & Wales	15·3	14·2	—	·072	3·2	—
Sowerby Bridge	12·22	15·26	2·4	—	4·6	12·59

The general health of the district has been good, and there has been no Infectious Disease prevalent during the year.

### Prevalence of, and control over, INFECTIOUS and OTHER DISEASES.

The following table gives particulars of the various diseases set out under the age groups :—

Age period	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	Puerperal Fever (inc. Puer. Pyrexia)	Pneumonia	Erysipelas
0	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1	—	3	8	—	—	—	—
5	—	19	17	—	—	1	—
15	—	4	3	—	—	1	—
25	—	2	—	—	—	3	1
35	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
55	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Totals	—	28	29	—	—	13	4

Of the above diseases, ten deaths were recorded due to Pneumonia.

As the above particulars indicate, no cases of Small-pox or Typhoid Fever were reported in the District.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis (Respiratory and Non-Respiratory) and the deaths from the disease which occurred in the area during the year :—

Age period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5		1	1					
15	1	1				1		
25	1			1				
35	2				1			
45	1	1	1					
55								
	5	3	2	1	1	1		

The number of notifications received during the year for Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis totals 11. Of this number 2 died, together with 4 cases notified previously, bringing the total number of deaths due to Tuberculosis up to 6; the death-rate per 1,000 of the population being '33.

The following table shows the number of notified cases on the Register on 31st December, 1938.

Total Cases	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
124	48	45	93	21	10	31

## **CLINICS and TREATMENT CENTRES.**

Child Welfare Centres are available at Sowerby Bridge and at Luddendenfoot. These centres serve the whole of Sowerby Bridge, Luddendenfoot, Midgley, and part of the Luddenden district of Halifax, together with parts of Mytholmroyd. The centres continue their activities with zeal and much success.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held twice weekly at the West Riding County Council's Dispensary in Sowerby Bridge.

Venereal Diseases are treated at the Royal Halifax Infirmary.

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.**

The Public Health Office is situate at the Council Offices, Hollings Mill Lane, Sowerby Bridge. Office hours, 9-15 a.m.—10-15 a.m. and 4-30 p.m.—5-30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.—10 a.m.

Medical Officer of Health — Dr. A. O. JOLLIE,  
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P. & S. (Glas.)

Sanitary Inspector — WM. E. FOSTER,  
M.S.I.A., M.R. San. I.

All Laboratory work is carried out at the County Hall, Wakefield.

## **ISOLATION HOSPITALS.**

Infectious disease in Sowerby Bridge, Sowerby, and Triangle is dealt with at the Clifton Isolation Hospital, Brighouse, and at the Fielden Isolation Hospital, Todmorden; whilst in Luddendenfoot all their cases are treated at Northowram Isolation Hospital, Halifax. Other diseases such as Pneumonia, etc., are treated at the Halifax General



Hospital. Accommodation is also reserved for cases of Smallpox at the Halifax Smallpox Hospital, Mount Tabor—the controlling authority for the latter Hospitals being the Halifax County Borough.

## **GENERAL HOSPITALS and INSTITUTIONS.**

General and accident cases are conveyed to the Royal Halifax Infirmary, and Maternity cases are dealt with at the Halifax General Hospital. The accident cases are conveyed to the Infirmary by means of a “Vauxhall 25” Ambulance. This service for accidents is free, and for general sickness the charge is 1/- per mile. The conveyance for Infectious Disease is free in all cases, and is carried out by the Ambulances of the various Isolation Hospitals.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the Area.**

### **1 (a). Water.**

The water supply which is supplied to Sowerby Bridge is taken from the County Borough of Halifax, and is distributed by Sowerby Bridge Urban District Council, which supplies approximately 4,050 houses. During the year, this water supply has been sampled periodically, and found to be pure, according to the Ministry of Health standard, and satisfactory both in quality and quantity. The Norland portion of the Area is supplied by Reservoir and certain Springs, the Reservoir supplying approximately 150 houses. This water has, from time to time, been sampled, both for Bacteriological examination and for Plumbo Solvency, and in every case it was found to be pure, according to the standard set up by the Ministry of Health. A new source of supply was recently discovered in close proximity to the Reservoir. This has now been pumped and forms another inlet to the Reservoir supply, which now ensures a sufficiency for the present requirements for this part of the district.

Extensions to the water mains have taken place at the Beechwood Housing Estate (built by the Council), Friendly Housing Estate, and Warley Wood Housing Estate (private enterprise), and also at Naylor Lane, Luddendenfoot, where an extension to the water main has taken place in order to improve certain supplies in Luddendenfoot, which were badly polluted. The extended main now serves 233 houses.

Many of the properties in the Sowerby Bridge Area, especially Luddendenfoot, Sowerby and Norland, are still relying principally upon the Springs or Cisterns as their main source of supply. These are sampled periodically, and have from time to time proved unsatisfactory. The private supplies in the Sowerby Area, about which there was so much trouble during 1936-7, have been cleared up, and I am pleased to say that these, upon analysis, still continue to give satisfaction.

The following table gives a detailed account of the number of water samples taken during the year, the district from which they were taken, and the result of the analysis.

District.	No. of Samples taken.	Result of Analysis.		
		Satisfact'y.	Doubtful.	Unsatisfact'y
Sowerby Bridge ...	4	1	—	3
Sowerby ...	23	7	—	16
Triangle ...	6	1	—	5
Luddendenfoot ...	6	2	2	2
Norland ...	19	6	—	13
	58	17	2	39

The number of unsatisfactory samples in the various districts of Sowerby Bridge appears to be colossal. Upon investigation into these supplies it was found, however, that in the majority of cases the pollution gained ingress by means of open cattle troughs in the various fields, or alternatively, via open stone pipes and stone runs, which convey the water through fields which form pasture-land for the cattle.



All the polluted water supplies have been investigated, and I am pleased to state that 14 of these have been completely cleared up, and now form an excellent water supply to the property which they serve. In the majority of these cases it has been found possible to obviate the pollution by piping the water from the source, and thus utilise the existing supply. In two instances this was found to be impracticable, but fortunately it has been possible to extend the mains, and thus have the polluted supply cut off and the main introduced.

This extension of mains has taken place at the following property :—

1. Oak Hill, and Sweet Oak, Triangle.
2. Lane Ends, Naylor Lane, Luddendenfoot.

The most extensive works which have been carried out on the water supplies in the district are set out below :—

1. Hollin Bar Farm, Luddendenfoot.
2. Turn Lee Farm, Triangle.
3. Oak Hill, Triangle.
4. Sweet Oak, Triangle.
5. Miry Lane, Sowerby.
6. New Lane Top, Luddendenfoot.
7. Fall Lane, Sowerby Bridge.
8. Naylor Lane, Luddendenfoot.

The remaining 25 polluted samples form 13 water supplies, two of which supply property already condemned.

With regard to the polluted supplies at Sowerby, of which we have 16 unsatisfactory samples, I am pleased to state that work is in progress on these supplies. Upon investigation into the polluted supply at Toothill End Farm, Sowerby, three Springs have been located, and it is now proposed that the water from these Springs be piped

to a suitable collecting chamber in the field above the Farm. This would then form a suitable and sufficient supply for the requirements at these premises. The overflow, as at present, would then serve the following Farms in order: Thunderton, Ogden, and Helm Farm respectively. This, when piped, would give the Farms a pure supply of water, which is at present unsatisfactory owing to the polluted source at Toothill End Farm. It is hoped to clear up these supplies immediately the work at Toothill End Farm is finished.

Work on the remainder of the supplies is in progress, and is being carried out quite satisfactorily, and it is hoped in the very near future to have these outstanding supplies cleared up, or alternatively condemned, and, where possible, the main supply introduced.

.(b). **Drainage and Sewage.**

Extensions to the sewer have taken place at Beechwood Housing Estate, Friendly Housing Estate and at Warley Wood Housing Estate.

The remote parts of the district such as Norland, and the rural portions of Sowerby, still require sewerage. There have been no alterations or extensions to sewers in any district in this Area other than those stated above.

Many drainage problems have been undertaken during the year, the major works having been completed at the following properties:

The re-draining of the Nos. 1 - 22, Osborne Terrace, Luddendenfoot.

The re-draining of the entire block of property known as Rose Grove, Luddendenfoot.

No other drainage alterations of note have been completed.

Many small drainage works in the District have been carried out—these in the main consist of W.C's, Sink Waste Pipes, Rain Water Pipes, and other such fittings. These amount to approximately 60.

(c). **Sewage Disposal.**

The Sewage Disposal Works, which are situate at Milner Royd, Sowerby Bridge, are worked upon the Activated Sludge principle. These still continue to give satisfaction, both as regards efficiency and adequacy. There has been no complaint from the Rivers Board during the year.

2. **Rivers and Streams.**

No action has been taken in the district during the year with regard to this matter. All matters appertaining to the above are undertaken by the County Council of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

3. **Sanitary Accommodation.**

There are approximately 4,297 water closets, 39 waste water closets, 30 trough closets, and 562 pail closets within the district. In addition to these there are 30 privies, 130 privy middens, and 16 ashpits, as compared with 40 privies, 427 pail closets, 243 privy middens and 116 ashpits, last year. The increase in the pail closets is accounted for in so much that the privies and privy middens which have been abolished have been converted to either chemical or earth closets, all of which have been included under the heading "pail closets." There were 216 water closets constructed for new property during the year, and in addition 33 water closets have been constructed for old property within the district. This latter figure has replaced 17 trough closets, and a number of privies and privy middens. There has been no special action by the Council during the year to secure the conversion of privies, etc., to the water carriage system. The Council have not given any financial grant to the owners in respect of any conversions to W.C's.

#### 4. Public Cleansing.

The Public Health Department is responsible for the collection of House Refuse generally, which includes the contents of ashbins, privy middens and pail closets within the Area, and the disinfection of the same.

In January, 1938, the Health Committee considered the entire re-organisation of the working of the Cleansing Department. At this time the removal of House Refuse was carried out every fortnight, with the exception of a small portion of East Ward, which was scavenged weekly. The Council had for this service in Sowerby Bridge, Sowerby, Mill Bank and Triangle, one S. & D. Freighter of 7 cubic yards capacity, one Bedford Waggon of 7 cubic yards capacity, together with a horse and cart, whilst in the Luddendenfoot and Norland districts, contract scavenging was employed—in the former district with mechanical transport, and in the latter by a horse and cart. This collection was also carried out every fortnight.

This, in many ways, proved unsatisfactory, and on account of the Area being extended in the very near future under the County Review Order, it was considered advisable to take over the entire control of the collection and disposal of House Refuse from 1st April, 1938. In view of this, and having in mind that further mechanised transport would be needed by the Department, the Council decided to obtain two further mechanical vehicles for this purpose. Thus, the horse-drawn vehicle was abolished, and two low, side-loading, covered Commer vehicles, of 6 cubic yards capacity, were obtained, with the result that the Department now operates the following transport :

- 1 S. & D. Freighter, 7 cubic yards.
- 1 Bedford Waggon, 7 cubic yards.
- 1 Commer Waggon, No. 3, 6 cubic yards.
- 1 Commer Waggon, No. 4, 6 cubic yards.



This enables the Department to have the district scavenged weekly, resulting in a more satisfactory and efficient arrangement. In addition, all Garden Refuse is removed free of charge, providing that this Refuse is kept in a suitable receptacle other than the ashbin, or alternatively, placed in a suitable position at the side of the ashbin for removal. I am sorry to say that the residents of Sowerby Bridge who have this Refuse collected have not co-operated with the Department in this matter, as this Refuse is left in any position other than at the place recommended.

The total annual cost for the collection of House Refuse in the district amounts to £2,563.

### **Storage.**

The following table gives a comparison of the method of House Refuse storage at the end of 1938, compared with that at the end of the previous year :—

TYPE OF STORAGE.	1937.	1938.
Ashbins    ...    ...	4,279	4,760
Ashpits    ...    ...	116	16
Privy Middens    ...	283	160
Pail Closets        ...	427	562

A great effort has been made to reduce to a minimum the number of Privies, Privy Middens, and Ashpits within the area, as the above figures point out. The Ashpits, when abolished as such, have been reconstructed as Ashbin places to house Ashbins ; 99 Informal Notices have been issued for this purpose, with which all have been complied.

Under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 273 Formal Notices have been issued for the provision of approximately 541 Ashbins. The above figure shows an increase in the number of Pail Closets compared with the figure of the previous year. Conversions of Privies and Privy Middens in the unsewered areas account for this

increase. These conversions number 123, and have been converted to either earth or chemical closets, and as these are scavenged weekly by the Cleansing Department, they have been included under the heading of "Pail Closets."

### Refuse Collection.

The following table gives the details of the number of Ashbins, etc., cleansed, and the number of loads collected by the various vehicles during the year.

Vehicle	Ashbins	Ashpits	Pails	Loads	Weight	
					Tons	Cwts
S. and D. Route No. 1 .....	113,221	41	—	1,173	1,604	1
Bedford Route No. 2.....	72,428	488	—	1,130	1,431	2
Commer 3 Route No. 3 ...	39,428	640	15,808	1,080	1,380	15
Commer 4 Route No. 4 ...	33,915	384	13,075	1,194	1,139	0
	<hr/> 258,992	<hr/> 1,553	<hr/> 28,883	<hr/> 4,577	<hr/> 5,554	<hr/> 18

### Trade Refuse.

The Cleansing Department also caters for the Tradesmen of the District, with the result that during the year approximately 500 tons of Trade Refuse have been collected. The Refuse mainly consists of general Trade Refuse, from business and trade premises, slaughterhouses, markets, fish shops, etc. Slaughterhouse and fish refuse is collected three times per week, and the remainder once per week. A charge of 6d. per bin is levied against Tradespeople requiring this service. The money from these charges yielded to the Cleansing Department the sum of £106 18s.

The Council have now decided that a portion of Trade Refuse should be removed free of charge—this amount must not exceed one bin per week—so that from the 1st of April, 1939, the Tradespeople of Sowerby Bridge receive a free collection of one bin of Trade Refuse, with a charge of 6d. for every remaining bin or part thereof.



## Refuse Disposal.

The House Refuse is disposed of in the following manner :—

1. By complete incineration (no salvage or separation plant being attached to this unit).
2. By tipping on the controlled system.
3. By farmers in the rural portion.

Approximately 86% of House Refuse is dealt with by complete incineration at the plant installed at Milner Royd : 13·5% by tipping at the various tips, which are situate at Milner Royd, Sowerby Bridge ; the Holmes, Luddenden Foot ; Moor Bottom, Norland ; and Mill Bank, Triangle. The remaining ·5% is treated by the farmers, who receive an annual payment of 5/- for this service.

There has been no complaint during the year of any nuisance whatsoever arising from the tips within the district.

## SANITARY INSPECTION of the Area.

General Sanitation :	VISITS
Drainage ... ..	60
Stables and Piggeries ... ..	6
Offensive Trades and Fried Fish Shops ...	39
Tents, Vans, and Sheds ... ..	21
Factories ... ..	25
Workshops ... ..	12
Workplaces ... ..	7
Outworker ... ..	3
Bakehouses ... ..	18
Theatres and Places of Entertainment ...	2
Refuse Collection ... ..	183
Refuse Disposal ... ..	7
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits ... ..	84
	<hr/>
	467
	<hr/>

**Infectious Diseases and Disinfection :**

The work of the Department under this heading consists chiefly of investigations into Infectious Disease, together with the precautions to be taken in such cases, and inspection of dwelling-houses so infected.

No. of Visits in connection with Infectious Disease ...	137
No. of rooms disinfected after Scarlet Fever ...	37
No. of rooms disinfected after Diphtheria ...	33
No. of rooms disinfected after Tuberculosis ...	7
	<hr/>
	214
	<hr/>

In addition to this, a number of rooms were disinfected after deaths from Cancer and other such diseases, at the request of the owner or occupier.

**Shops.**

The work in connection with the Shops Act, 1934, is carried out under the direction of the W.R.C.C. Shops Inspector. On his request twelve visits have been made to the various shops under Section 10 and 13 of the Shops Act, 1934. The complaints were generally with regard to sanitary accommodation, heating and ventilation of these premises. As a result of these twelve visits, seven unsatisfactory conditions were found, all these having been remedied.

**Camping Sites.**

There are two Camping Sites in the Area : these are situate at Ladstone Holiday Farm, and Ladstone House, Norland. These have been visited periodically, and the water supply sampled and, upon analysis, found to be satisfactory. The sanitary accommodation in respect of these Sites is quite satisfactory.

Upon examination it was found that the maximum number of campers resident at one time during the summer season of 1938 was 28 persons.

No licences have been issued during the year under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

**Smoke Abatement.**

92 smoke observations were taken during 1938, compared with 196 the previous year. In 91 cases the observations were of half-hour duration, the remaining observation lasting for one hour. The following table gives the detailed particulars of all the observations taken :

Number of chimneys observed	...	..	...	44
Number of observations taken	...	...	...	92
Average number of minutes of black smoke emitted during the observations...	...	...	1.67 min.	
Average number of minutes of smoke other than black smoke	...	...	...	4.43 min.
Number of observations emitting black smoke exceeding three minutes	...	...	...	14
Number of observations showing black smoke during the observations	...	...	...	49
Maximum number of minutes of black smoke emitted in one observation	...	...	15 min.	
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	14
Number of Statutory notices served	...	...	...	nil

Many of the above owners are becoming “Smoke conscious,” and are beginning to realise that black or dense smoke emitted in excessive limits is not a sign of prosperity, but a great waste of fuel. These people, I am pleased to state, are in many instances facing up to this fact seriously, with the result that many improvements have been completed. These include the fitting of induced and forced draught fans, the introduction of steam jets, fitted in conjunction with hollow grate bars, the general

overhauling of the boiler plant, and other such works. These, after having worked several months, have produced a saving in fuel costs. It will be interesting to note the time when the remaining factory owners follow in the footsteps of these progressive few, and so add very materially to the abatement of the smoke nuisance which is so detrimental to health.

**Factories and Workshops.**

On July 1st, 1938, the Factory and Workshops Act of 1901 and 1907, together with other such legislation, disappeared from the Factory Law, and the new and up-to-date Factory Act, 1937, came into being.

Previous to this Act, the following inspections took place under the Factory and Workshops Acts of 1901 and 1907.

**Factories.**

During the year six complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, and as a result 25 inspections were made. Two of the complaints were registered under Section 11 of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901, for the provision of reasonable means of escape in case of fire. These were handed to the Fire Brigade Superintendent for his attention. The remaining complaints were as follows :

Complaint		Defects	
		Found	Remedied
San. Accommodation	Insufficient	—	—
	Unsuitable	3	3
Other Offences	Not separate for sexes	—	—
	... ..	1	1
Total		4	4

The 74 Factories in the district are visited periodically, and no offence, other than those set out above, was recorded.



## Workshops.

The following Workshops were on the Register previous to the Factory Act of 1937 becoming law :

Joiners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rag, Waste and Shoddy Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Watch Makers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Painters, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Smithies and Forges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Various Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Total								66

These have been inspected, and no contraventions discovered.

## Bakehouses.

18 inspections were made to the 15 Bakehouses within the Area. These appear to be in reasonable condition, and no contravention was discovered.

## SWIMMING BATHS.

A Public Swimming Bath, with a capacity of 64,000 gallons, is situate at Town's Buildings, Hollings Mill Lane, and controlled by the Sowerby Bridge Urban District Council. There are no private Pools or Swimming Baths within the district. The Public Bath's water has been sampled on four occasions, two samples being obtained from the Inlet immediately after passing through the Chlorination Plant and Filter, and two samples from the Outlet before entering this plant. These, upon Bacteriological examination by the West Riding County Laboratory, and by the Halifax Borough Analyst, were found to contain the following :—

Presumptive B. Coli	...	Nil
pH Value...	...	7·6
Free Chlorine	...	·03 parts per million.

This report shows that the Bath water is quite satisfactory.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The various Housing Estates owned by the Council—situate at Beechwood, Albert Road, Willow Street, Norland View, and Warley Wood (Luddenden Foot) have received periodical inspection for the detection of the presence of vermin. As a result of these inspections, six Council Houses were found to be infested with vermin. This necessitated four blocks of property being treated, incorporating 13 houses. The disinfestation of this property was carried out by the Low Toxic Gas method, and after this work was completed, subsequent inspection of the houses was made, and in every case they were found to be free from any trace of vermin. Routine inspections were also carried out on the property in the district, and it was found that eight privately-owned houses were infested with vermin. The Low Toxic Gas was again used on this property with very efficient results. Sprays and insecticide are from time to time employed in the eradication of vermin from slightly infested houses. The insecticide employed in these cases being “Pyagra” and “Zaldecide.” These insecticides proved very satisfactory and efficient in every way.

During the year great activity has taken place with regard to the Slum Clearance Property. 81 houses, comprising seven Clearance Areas, were treated, prior to demolition, with the Low Toxic Gas. To ensure the cleanliness of the furniture, bedding and general household effects from this property, it was decided to treat the furniture, etc., in sealed vans. The disinfestation was then carried out in these vans by the above-mentioned gas, the



furniture and similar belongings remaining in the van for a period of six hours before being taken to the Council's estate at Beechwood. The bedding and clothes, etc., are treated by the Council in the steam disinfector. This work is carried out entirely by the Council and its employees, with very efficient results.

In addition to these 81 houses, a further 46 families of the Clearance Areas 8-17 inclusive have been removed and treated in a similar manner to those in the first Clearance Order. All the families that are re-housed on the Council's Estates are visited from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector, and it is pleasing to note that up to date no vermin has been found in any of these houses now occupied by the Slum Clearance Tenants.

Advice is offered at the Public Health Department on measures to be taken when a house is slightly infested with vermin, and also in the prevention of re-infestation. Sprays are also loaned and insecticide of the quality previously mentioned is offered free to the residents of Sowerby Bridge on application to this Department.

## **NUISANCE INSPECTION.**

Regular routine inspection of the district has taken place for the detection of any nuisance. As a result of this, and complaints which have come to hand, 268 nuisances have been found. These, together with two nuisances which were outstanding from the previous year, have been attended to.

The nature of the nuisance is generally drainage, water supplies, defective sinks, offensive accumulation or deposit, dampness, and similar nuisances. As a result of these, many new sinks, rain-water pipes, and similar sanitary fittings have been provided. Many nuisances have been abated on verbal notice. There have been, however, during the year, 129 Informal Notices served and 141 Statutory

Notices. The Statutory Notices served were generally under the Public Health Act, 1936. 119 of these Notices have been complied with up to the end of the year, together with 133 Informal Notices, which gives a total of 252. This leaves at the year end 18 outstanding nuisances which require abatement.

**OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

The following Offensive Trades were being carried on in the district at the year end :—

Fish Fryers ...	...	...	...	30
Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	2
Bone Boiler	...	...	...	1
Gut Scraper	...	...	...	1

39 Inspections were made at the various premises, resulting in two contraventions of the Bye-Laws being discovered.

In each case white-washing of the buildings, in which the trades were carried out, was required. This was remedied after the serving of an Informal Notice. The general condition of the remainder was clean, and no nuisance was created.

**SCHOOLS.**

The schools of this district are subject to a medical inspection by the County Education Authority. In addition to this, the Medical Officer of Health has made numerous inspections to the various schools of the district. No schools have been closed during the year, although during December a number of diphtheria contacts, which were traced to various schools, necessitated the swabbing of the scholars at these schools. As a result of this, it was decided that there was no need to have any of the schools closed.

## HOUSING.

### 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	234
	(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	256
(2)	(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	67
	(b)	No. of inspections made for the purpose	73
(3)		Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	17
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	25

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without the service of formal notice.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	42
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### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	25
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice ... ..	63
	(a) By Owners ... ..	63
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service by formal notice ... .. 3

(a) By Owners ... .. 3

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... .. Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation ... .. Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 8

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. Nil



#### 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV. — OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	50
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	51
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	303
(b) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	13
(c) (i) Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	65
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	364
(d) Particulars of any case in which dwelling-houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding :—	

A number of houses have become overcrowded during the year. These, in every case, have been attended to, and the nuisance abated within 14 days.

#### **Housing Act, 1936.**

There are still within the district many unhealthy dwelling-houses, and many houses yet to be dealt with under Section 26 of the Housing Act, 1936. The activities of the Department in this direction have been very vigorous, although continued action is still necessary to improve housing conditions generally. This improvement in the standard of housing will not be possible until further Clearance Orders have been made, together with a great amount of reconditioning of the property.

On the extension of boundaries under the County Review Order, it was found that little progress had been made in housing, and our activities have been increased in this direction in these extended areas. As a result, the Council are now contemplating a Compulsory Purchase Order for a site of approximately  $15\frac{3}{4}$  acres at Luddenden Foot.

It is proposed to deal with 600 houses in the next five years, 400 of these being in the Sowerby Bridge district, 150 in Luddenden Foot district, and 50 in Norland and Triangle district.

A Public Enquiry was held during the year at Windsor Hall, Town's Buildings, Sowerby Bridge, to consider the following Clearance Areas :—

CLEARANCE AREAS.	No. OF HOUSES.
East Ward No. 8 Clearance Area :	
Chapel Lane, Wakefield Road, Walker Lane	57 Houses
East Ward No. 9 Clearance Area :	
Bolton Brow, Park Street, Willow Street	48 Houses
East Ward No. 10 Clearance Area :	
Fall Lane	2 Houses
Central Ward No. 11 Clearance Area :	
Grange Place	7 Houses
Central Ward No. 12 Clearance Area :	
Baldwins Yard	2 Houses
Central Ward No. 13 Clearance Area :	
St. Ann's Square, Back Wharf Street	16 Houses
South Ward No. 14 Clearance Area :	
Walton Street	2 Houses
East Ward No. 15 Clearance Area :	
Mearclough Cottages	3 Houses
Central Ward No. 16 Clearance Area :	
Corporation Street	9 Houses
Central Ward No. 17 Clearance Area :	
Back Wharf Street	8 Houses
Total Houses in Clearance Areas	... <u>154 Houses</u>

In each of the above areas the Ministry upheld the decision of the Council, and confirmed the Orders in their entirety with the exception of East Ward No. 8 Clearance Area, where two houses were taken out and dealt with under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 — here an undertaking was given stating that these houses would be used for purposes other than that of human habitation. These two houses have now been converted into warehouses for the Calder and Hebble Navigation Co.



## Section 9, Housing Act, 1936.

Detailed inspections, surveys and reports have been prepared under the above Section for the repair of insanitary houses. Schedules for this work have been prepared, and 63 houses within the area have been re-conditioned. The standard of re-conditioning is reasonably high.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk Supplies.

Regular inspection of the various farms and cow sheds in the district has taken place throughout the year, and the conditions found were generally good. The County Veterinary Officer has examined all milk cows in the area regularly, and reported that he is well satisfied with the method of production, handling, etc., of the milk, and also of the cleanliness of the dairies and utensils.

The following table gives the details of the number of farms, cow sheds, milch cows, etc, in the various districts of the Area :—

District			Farms	Cow Sheds	Dairies	Milch Cows
Sowerby Bridge	...		4	4	1	30
Sowerby	...	...	32	44	11	308
Triangle (including Mill Bank)			14	20	10	116
Norland...	...	...	12	14	4	78
Luddendenfoot	...		16	22	9	155
Total			78	104	35	687

From this table it is clearly seen that this industry requires strict supervision and control, and consequently much of the Inspector's time is taken up in this work. Many improvements have been effected during the year, amongst the most notable being the provision of dairies, new cow sheds, and the reconstruction of entire farms, together with such items as reconstruction of floors, increased natural lighting and the provision of sterilising equipment, which all lead to the extra cleanliness of the milk supplies.

Two registers are kept, as required by the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, Section 2 (3). (i) for retailers, (ii) for cow-keepers and wholesale traders.

On the former register there are 70 retailers, 12 being outside the district, and on the latter register there are 33 wholesale traders.

### **Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936.**

In addition to the ordinary milk producers in the Area, accredited milk is also produced at the following farms:—

- J. Crabtree, Brockwell Farm, Triangle.
- A. Farrar, Haven Farm, Luddendenfoot.
- J. Lumb, Daisy Lea Farm, Sowerby Bridge.
- P. J. L. Hindle, Thunderton Farm, Triangle.
- H. Armstrong, Oaken Clough, Triangle.
- F. Teal, Magson House Farm, Luddendenfoot.

The controlling authority for the above farms is the West Riding County Council.

From the above figure it will be clearly seen that the district contains only 6 accredited farms, and no tuberculin tested farms. This number is far too small, although during the past year every effort has been made to induce the farmers to go on to the accredited milk supply, with the result that Magson House Farm, and Oaken Clough,

have effected certain improvements in their cow sheds and dairies, and now produce accredited milk. Many farms within the district would require very little alteration to bring them up to the required standard, and I am looking forward with confidence to considerable progress in this direction in the near future, and hope that this number will be increased very considerably.

### Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

During the year 55 milk samples were taken from the ordinary milk producers, and 17 from the accredited milk producers. All these samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test, which has now replaced the Bacteria Count Test, in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936.

This test sets out that milk must not de-colourise Methylene Blue within  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours if the sample is tested between the 1st of May and 31st of October, or within  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours if sampled between the 1st day of November and the 30th day of April.

The following tables set out the results of the accredited samples (A), and the ordinary milk samples (B).

Table A. Accredited milk.

$\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2} - 4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2} - 5\frac{1}{2}$
—	1	—	—	—

The remaining 16 samples passed the prescribed test.

Table B. Ordinary milk.

$\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2} - 4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2} - 5\frac{1}{2}$
6	6	5	2	—

The remaining 36 samples passed the prescribed test.

In every case where the milk has proved unsatisfactory, the farms have been visited, and the farmer has been given instructions with regard to the best method of obtaining a pure and clean milk supply, and when a dairy is not provided one has been specified, and it is hoped in the near future that these farms will have the necessary equipment and utensils for obtaining a satisfactory milk supply.

### **Biological Examination for Tuberculosis.**

Two complaints have been received from County Hall, stating that guinea-pigs, which were inoculated with the deposit obtained after centrifuging certain samples of milk, were, upon post-mortem examination, found to be tuberculous.

Inspections were made at these farms by the Veterinary Officer, and in all these cases the necessary action was taken, to clear up these milk supplies.

### **Meat Inspection.**

We have in the district 5 private Slaughter Houses consisting of 2 registered Slaughter Houses, and 3 licensed ones, together with a Public Abattoir. The general condition and arrangement of these is poor.

Upon the extension of the boundary in April, 1939, we take over a further 4 licensed Slaughter Houses, bringing the total up to 10 private Slaughter Houses, and one Public Abattoir. During the year a registration of one of the Slaughter Houses has been removed on account of the premises being dis-used as a Slaughter House.

For many years past your attention has been constantly drawn to the inadequacy of the Public Slaughter House. The Health Committee have considered a special report, and it is gratifying to note that a modern Public Abbatoir has been one of the first considerations in the Five Year Plan. A suitable site has already been suggested.



The following table indicates the number of animals which have been slaughtered and inspected in the various Slaughter Houses and Public Abattoir during the year :—

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Bovines	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	1545	49	3343	1393
Number inspected... ..	1545	49	3343	1393
All diseases except Tuberculosis :				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	1 Sheep	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	46	—	21 Sheep	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	3·05%	1·99%	0·66%	1·005%
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcasses condemned	5	2	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	351	—	—	86
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	23·05%	3·99%	—	6·25%

The total amount of Meat which was surrendered during the year as unfit for food was 5 tons, 15 cwts., 93 lbs.

525 inspections were required at the various Slaughter Houses in order to exact strict supervision over the slaughtering of these animals.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

During the year 42 Renewal Licences have been granted under the above Act ; no new licences have been applied for. There are now 42 licensed Slaughtermen upon the Register.

There has been one prosecution during the year, under the above Act, when the decision was given in the favour of the Council.



**Markets and Shops.**

The Market, which is held on Tuesdays and Fridays, is regularly inspected for the purpose of detecting unsound Food. As a result of these visits an amount of Fish was surrendered as unfit, together with several tins of Fruit, and two boxes of Onions.

The following table indicates the number of visits and inspections made to the Market and various Food Shops in the district :—

Market	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Fish Merchants and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Green Grocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
								<hr/> 306 <hr/>

**Premises for the Manufacture of Ice Cream.**

During the year 5 visits have been made to the above premises, and certain contraventions observed. Before it was possible to grant the registration to these premises, the following alterations were required :—

Situation of Premises.	Improvements required.
(a). Sparkhouse Lane.	(1). Reconditioning of floor. (2). Increasing of the natural light. (3). Improvement of walls.
(b). Upper Harper Royd.	(1). Sterilising equipment required. (2). Increasing of the natural light.

These improvements have been carried out and the registration duly granted.

## **PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACT, 1928.**

During the year two applications have been received to store Petroleum under this Act. These, together with 38 Renewal Licences, were granted.

There are now 40 Licensed Petroleum Dealers in the district. In addition to these, two licences have been granted for the storage of Calcium Carbide and one for the storage of Cellulose Paint.

There was one prosecution under Section 1 of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928, for the storage of Petroleum without a licence. The Court upheld the decision of the Council in this matter.

## **CANAL BOATS ACT, 1877 and 1884.**

### **CANAL BOATS REGULATION, 1878.**

There are five Canal Boats on the Register in this district. These have been examined periodically, and no contravention of the Acts and Regulations was discovered.

There has been no infectious disease amongst the occupants of these boats during the year. The canal boats are not now used as dwellings, but for the transport of coal only.

No further registrations have been granted by the Council during the year.

## **RATS AND MICE DISTRUCTION ACT, 1919.**

A number of complaints have been investigated by the Department in connection with premises infested with Rats. Baits have been issued from time to time, and advice has been given by the Health Department to the occupants of these affected premises. In many instances effective eradication has been secured.

Tips and dis-used Quarries, together with Farmhouses, etc., have been baited periodically, and approximately 2000 baits have been laid. Information regarding Rat-proofing of buildings, together with other particulars, may be obtained from the Health Department.

## EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following figures indicate the extent of Unemployment in the District for the last 5 years :—

Number of persons unemployed—at 31st Dec., 1934 ...	935
ditto. ditto. 1935 ...	648
ditto. ditto. 1936 ...	603
ditto. ditto. 1937 ...	1,176
ditto. ditto. 1938 ...	1,136

The main Industries of the District are Cotton Spinning and Doubling, Worsted Spinning and Weaving, and General Textile work.

There has been rather a shortage of work in the Textile Industry, as the above Unemployment figures show.

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In conclusion, Gentlemen, I should like to record my appreciation of the keen interest shown by the Chairman, Mr. Councillor A. Sutcliffe, in all the work appertaining to the Health Department, and also to the Health Committee, for their unfailing courtesy and valuable assistance rendered at all times.

My appreciation is also due to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. E. Foster, and the staff of the Public Health Department, for their work during the year, and their assistance in preparing this Report. In addition, I should like to thank all the Officials of your Council, who have kindly co-operated in rendering their assistance, and supplying general information for this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ANDREW OSWALD JOLLIE,

Medical Officer of Health.









